

## Letters From the People

### A Weak Reason.

To THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:

Sir: The statement attributed to Mr. Oakes, President of the Board of Education, at the meeting on Friday night of last week, when the annexation project was sprung, has occasioned more genuine surprise than the annexation bill itself. Mr. Oakes is quoted as saying that one reason why the town should be annexed to Newark was the increasing cost of the schools.

For upwards of a score of years or more Thomas Oakes and Wm. A. Baldwin have been the recognized controlling influence in the Board of Education and the utmost confidence has been reposed in them, and whatever course they have advocated in regard to building, tearing down and rebuilding school houses has been adopted despite the fact that it was patent to all that the adoption of the recommendation covered with it increased cost of maintenance. Several new features of school work in the educational line have been adopted in recent years that have materially added to the cost of the schools, and Mr. Oakes has sanctioned these additions.

It is true that the cost of maintaining the schools has increased annually and will continue to increase as the town grows. The same is true of Belleville, Nutley, Verona and Caldwell and every other place in this county. The only difference between the places mentioned and Bloomfield is that in those places Boards of Education have not permitted the cost of schools to increase out of all proportion to other public expenditures, such as has come about in this town, and partly sanctioned by the people in voting bonds for buildings in accordance with the recommendations of Mr. Oakes, and also in the adoption of so many new features of educational work which the Board of Education could have negatived.

Bloomfield is now equipped with a splendid school system and its cost of maintenance figures prominently in the tax rate. But the people have not complained grievously of this cost, but on the contrary have felt a just pride in the schools and have believed that they were getting a full and ample return for every dollar of tax paid for schools.

It is rather humiliating to Bloomfielders to be advised, to vote for annexation to Newark because of the increasing cost of the maintenance of public schools. The increasing cost due to the maintenance of a superior school system, and it is creditable to the citizens that they have all along been in accord with the maintenance of a superior system.

But Mr. Oakes to the contrary notwithstanding, the Bloomfield school system is economically conducted now as to the per capita cost.

The per capita cost, average, for all cities in the United States is \$34.

The per capita cost last year in Glen Ridge was \$30.

The per capita cost in Bloomfield, 1896-7, was \$28; 1902, \$26; 1894-5, \$26.

In any comparison of the cost of the schools at the present time with that of past years the large increase in the enrolment must be given consideration.

These figures show the increase:

1893	1,161
1897	1,477
1902	2,298
1903	2,463

The total expenditures for the schools, not including bonds and interest in the same year, was as follows:

State Appropriation	Local Appropriation
\$10,270	\$1,200
16,549	30,000
17,679	68
19,440	19
47,457	45,500
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The above is one of the strongest arguments I ever read against the wicked city of Newark, and those who are advocating annexation to that city should not fail to read it. How any professed Christian can advocate such a scheme, after reading the above graphic description of the corruption prevailing in Newark, is past my understanding. For one, I am content to remain in Bloomfield.

SECOND, we must have a new order of politicians. Give us politicians whose cry is: 'To the victors belong the responsibilities'; men like Lincoln and McKinley, like Low and Jerome and Roosevelt. Let us educate our best young men to go into politics, and make it an honorable and honored profession.'

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### Beware of the Dog.

To THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:

SIR: Last fall Rev. Henry R. Rose, pastor of the Church of the Redeemer, Newark, took that city as a topic for a pulpit discourse. Here is the picture the clergymen drew of his own city, and the place to which some citizens of this town desire to be annexed:

"Dirty politics," said Mr. Rose, "are politics that throw dirt at clean men; politics that are working for their own pockets all the time; politics that run the errands for the unscrupulous corporations; politics that obey the commands of the consciousnessless bosses. Such politics are pernicious to a nation. They are dangerous. Once let their poison enter deeply into the body politic and it will decay, agonize, and die."

"Take Newark. Tell me, candidly, is it up to cities as big, as well-to-do and as highly privileged? Can it hold a candle in the way of progressiveness to Detroit, Buffalo, Minneapolis, Cleveland, Toledo or Boston? Look at our streets—dirty. Look at our system of mixing our ashes and garbage—filthy, disease-producing. Why does the Board of Health tolerate such an abominable and antediluvian system? Look at our river-breathing germs of smallpox and diphtheria into the lungs of our people with every wave of mist that rolls in from its polluted waters. Look at our school facilities—six hundred children being taught in hired halls because we have not buildings enough; children attending but one session; children who cannot go at all, for lack of accommodations. Examine the sanitary conditions of some of our schools, and then you will wonder no longer that our children are diseased. Take our method of building new houses—we have no ordinance against wooden buildings, and, worse still, we allow land-owners to build close so that they disfigure the streets. Look at our police department—it cannot shut up a dive and keep it shut; it cannot close out these shameless concert halls; we cannot even weed out the debauching penny-in-the-slot machines.

"But worst of all, dirty politics make a debauching city. Vice is smallpox. It catches. The daughters of our best homes are not safe; the sons of our most fashionable streets are in danger; the heads of our most respected houses are in peril. So, too, where there is a low political tone, it lowers the ideals of all who enter politics. Should we have such a horrible state of affairs as our wretched isolation hospital if the politicians of our city were not of such a low caliber? Think of sending our dear little children and our women and men of refinement to such a pest-house to roll and toss in the agonies of one of the most maddening diseases; to a pesthouse that is not fit for hogs, and all because our officials have not done their sworn duty, have not had the true welfare of this people at heart.

"I tell you, fellow-citizens, you cannot have dirty politics and a satisfactory city at one and the same time. What is the remedy? First, a new civic desire. We must wake up here in Newark and demand good government. Good government empties the jails, the hospitals, the asylums, the courts. It lowers the tax rate. It makes business better. It invites to the city a higher grade of citizens.

"Second, we must have a new order of politicians. Give us politicians whose cry is: 'To the victors belong the responsibilities'; men like Lincoln and McKinley, like Low and Jerome and Roosevelt. Let us educate our best young men to go into politics, and make it an honorable and honored profession.'

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